

Fish and Wildlife Components of Alternatives



January 14, 2005

Legislative Mandate for the Salton Sea:

◆ *The preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:*

- ⌘ (1) **Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea.**
- ⌘ (2) **Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects.**
- ⌘ (3) **Protection of water quality.**

Historic Abundance and Diversity

- ◆ **Salton Sea ecosystem is dynamic and non-cyclical**
- ◆ **Historic levels may not be achievable with any alternative**
- ◆ **Alternatives will support different levels of abundance (carrying capacity)**
- ◆ **Each alternative will be developed to optimize fish and wildlife diversity and abundance**
- ◆ **Alternatives will be evaluated to determine anticipated population levels for key fish and wildlife indicators**

Department of Fish and Game

Salton Sea Policy

- ◆ **Protect biological integrity of the Salton Sea and associated wetlands**
- ◆ **Protect and perpetuate diverse fish and wildlife**
- ◆ **Prevent and alleviate projects, developments and activities with negative impacts on habitats and populations**
- ◆ **Support efforts to stabilize salinity and water surface elevation to sustain and perpetuate existing fish and wildlife resources**
- ◆ **This vision is overlapping and complementary to the federal and local goals**

Department of Fish and Game Vision

- ◆ **Create and maintain a healthy dynamic ecosystem**
- ◆ **Provide mosaic comprising freshwater, marine, and upland habitats**
- ◆ **Support fish and wildlife, including sensitive species**
- ◆ **Support a key linkage to the North American flyways**
- ◆ **Provide preservation and restoration through an adaptive management approach**

Salton Sea Key Habitat Components

- ◆ **Deep open water (saline)**
- ◆ **Islands**
- ◆ **Shallow water and shoreline pools (saline)**
- ◆ **Shoreline**
- ◆ **Irrigation drains**
- ◆ **Marsh**
- ◆ **Upland**
- ◆ **Agricultural lands**

Additional Habitat Considerations

- ◆ **Connectivity among habitat types**
- ◆ **Spatial arrangement of habitats**
- ◆ **Sustainability of habitats**
- ◆ **Proximity of habitat features (e.g., distance from foraging habitat to nesting / roosting locations)**
- ◆ **Long-term preservation of habitats**

Habitat Components

Deep Salt Water

wildlife uses:

- ◆ marine fishes
- ◆ foraging for eared grebe, fish-eating birds, gulls
- ◆ waterfowl loafing



Habitat Components (Cont'd)

Shallow Water and Shoreline Pools

wildlife uses:

- ◆ pupfish habitat
- ◆ Shorebird foraging
- ◆ Wading bird foraging
- ◆ Foraging for other wildlife



Habitat Components (Cont'd)

Shoreline (rocky shoreline, mudflats, barnacle bars)

wildlife uses:

- ◆ foraging for shorebirds, wading birds, and gulls
- ◆ loafing and nesting for shorebirds
- ◆ foraging for dabbling ducks
- ◆ habitat for macroinvertebrates



Habitat Components (Cont'd)

Islands

wildlife uses:

- ◆ loafing and nesting
for colonial
ground-nesting
birds

